

Amendments to the Claims:

The following Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) An article comprising an electrochemical sensor strip having circuits comprising electrodes in an electrode region connected to contact pads in a contact region by conductive traces wherein the electrode region is off-set from the contact region in both an x direction parallel to the length of the sensor strip and a y direction parallel to the width of the sensor strip, wherein the electrode region and contact region are off-set such that they form an L shape, the interior of which shape forms an edge of the sensor strip and wherein the electrode region protrudes beyond the contact region in the x direction.
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Original) The article of claim 1 wherein the circuits are located in an active portion and the article further comprises an inactive portion.
6. (Original) The article of claim 5 wherein the inactive portion comprises a handling tab.
7. (Original) The article of claim 6 wherein the handling tab is bent at one or both ends.
8. (Original) The article of claim 6 wherein the handling tab is textured.
9. (Original) The article of claim 5 wherein the active portion is about 3 mm to about 10 mm wide and about 5 mm to about 25 mm long.
10. (Currently Amended) An article comprising an electrochemical sensor strip comprising a backing material,
an active portion laminated to a portion of the backing material,
the active portion comprising
a substrate,
a circuit comprising electrodes in an electrode region connected to contact pads in a contact region by conductive traces wherein the electrode region is off-set from the contact region in both an x direction parallel to the length of the sensor strip

and a y direction parallel to the width of the sensor strip, wherein the electrode region and contact region are off-set such that they form an L shape, the interior of which shape forms an edge of the sensor strip and wherein the electrode region protrudes beyond the contact region in the x direction, and

a polymeric layer comprising a channel-forming material over the electrodes, and
a hydrophilic layer over the channel-forming material.

- 11. (Original) The article of claim 10 wherein a reagent layer is applied on the electrodes.
- 12. (Original) The article of claim 1 further comprising a fluid-wicking channel that extends across the length of the electrode region and wherein the length of the electrode region is less than one-half of the width of the circuit.
- 13. (Original) The article of claim 12 wherein the fluid-wicking channel terminates at one end with a fluid sample entrance, wherein the fluid sample entrance traverses the end of the fluid-wicking channel at an angle of less than 90.
- 14. (Original) The article of claim 13 wherein the angle is 45.
- 15. (Original) The article of claim 14 wherein the fluid sample entrance is 1.4 times an entrance that intersects the fluid-wicking channel at an angle of 90.
- 16. (Original) The article of claim 12 wherein the fluid-wicking channel is open to the atmosphere at both ends.
- 17. (Original) The article of claim 12 wherein the fluid-wicking channel transports fluid to the electrodes by capillary action.
- 18. (Original) The article of claim 12 wherein the fluid-wicking channel has a volume of less than about one microliter.
- 19. (Original) The article of claim 1 wherein the sensor strip is a blood glucose sensor strip.
- 20. (Original) An article comprising a blood glucose test kit comprising the electrochemical sensor strip of claim 19 and a glucose measuring device having a slot that receives the sensor strip article wherein when the sensor strip is fully inserted into the slot the electrode region of the sensor remains outside of the slot.